REMARKS

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, and 10-25 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of Claims 3, 5, and 9 into Claim 1. Claims 3, 5, and 9 have been canceled. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the coloring material-receiving layer has a porous structure, as supported by page 6, lines 13-14, and page 30, and to recite that the solid content of the fine particles in the coloring material-receiving layer is 60 wt% or more, as supported by page 30.

New Claim 24 is supported by the description at page 30 of the specification.

New Claim 25 is supported by the description at page 37 of the specification.

No new matter has been added.

Referring to Section Nos. 1-6 of the Office Action, Applicants affirm the election of Group I, Claims 1-10 and 21. Claims 11-20 and 22-23 thus stand withdrawn from consideration.

Referring to Section No. 7 at pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-10 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1 080 936 ("EP '936"). Also, referring to Section No. 8 at pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action, Claims 1-10 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,500,668 ("US '668").

Applicants respectfully traverse each of the prior art rejections.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); MPEP §2131. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applying the law to the facts of the present case, EP '936 and US '668 do not disclose or suggest each and every element of the claimed sheet for ink jet recording.

A sheet of the invention comprises: a support; and a coloring material-receiving layer containing a mordant, a specific compound (*i.e.*, a compound represented by formula (2)), fine particles, and a water-soluble resin, wherein the coloring material-receiving layer has a porous structure, and the solid content of the fine particles in the coloring material-receiving layer is 60 wt% or more.

EP '936 and US '668 do not disclose a recording sheet that comprises a coloring material-receiving layer containing fine particles of 60 wt% or more and having a porous structure. Also, EP '936 and US '668 do not disclose the compound represented by formula (2).

In particular, the porous structure of the invention is a three-dimensional network structure formed by adhering the fine particles to each other with the water-soluble resin in the coloring material-receiving layer. When the solid content of fine particles in the coloring material-receiving layer is 60 wt% or more, it becomes possible to obtain a better porous structure.

EP '936 and US '668 disclose that the ink receiving layer may contain fine particles as fillers. However, the amount of the fillers in the ink receiving layer according to EP '936 is 20 wt% or less (Applicants refer to paragraph [0040] of EP '936), and the amount of the fillers in the coating composition according to US '668 is from 1 to 60 wt% (Applicants refer to column 24, lines 45-47 of US '668). The amounts disclosed in EP '936 and US '668 are not enough to form a good porous structure.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejections based on EP '936 and US '668.

EP '936 and US '668 also fail to suggest (render obvious) the presently claimed invention.

The sheets taught by EP '936 and US '668 do not have a porous structure (*i.e.*, swelling papers). When the swelling papers are stored under high humidity conditions, the coloring material-receiving layer is swollen by imbibition of water to cause the peeling of the coloring material-receiving layer from the support.

On the other hand, although sheets having a porous structure can be stored under high humidity conditions without the peeling of the coloring material-receiving layer, sheets having a porous structure have a problem of blotting of ink due to many pores of the porous structure in the coloring material-receiving layer. In particular, sheets having a porous structure have a problem that a printed image is liable to blot under high humidity conditions.

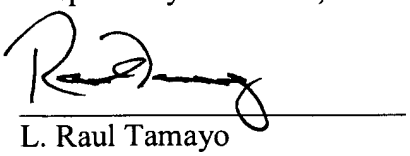
The present invention uniquely solves the above problems under high humidity conditions by providing a sheet for inkjet recording which hardly blots under high humidity conditions, even when an image-receiving layer (*i.e.*, the coloring material-receiving layer) has a porous structure.

Therefore, the claimed invention is unobvious over EP '936 and US '668 because EP '936 and US '668 do not have blotting problems under high humidity conditions and do not teach a recording sheet that comprises a coloring material-receiving layer having a porous structure.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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